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Thursday Morning, November 5, 1914.

### THE FALLACY OF STANDING ARMIES

Suppose the United States should yield to the demands of the jingoism and create a fighting machine constantly prepared for war—an army and navy ready to cope with any power in the world. What would be the result?

The question is not merely academic. Within two weeks the country has been lectured again for its "unpreparedness" for self-defense against a hypothetical enemy.

Few Americans will doubt that, if we choose, we could develop and maintain an army and navy equal or superior to any in the world. Our wealth is inexhaustible. Our population, though not so great as that of the British and Russian empires, is more homogeneous and more readily available. Our citizens, though impatient of control, make the best soldiers in the world because they have unrivaled alertness, intelligence, self-confidence and energy.

By compulsory military training we could make available a standing army and reserve totaling perhaps 10,000,000. We could build battleships, cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines, together with dirigible war balloons and scouting and fighting aeroplanes, until we felt ourselves secure by air and water, as well as on land.

It would cost enormously in money and effort, but it could be done—we could make this country a Germany and an England rolled into one, ready to defy the world.

But there is just the trouble. A nation armed for battle is too ready to "defy the world." And therein is the fatal error of militarism. For military preparation, always undertaken—ostensibly at least—for the sake of self-defense, ends in aggression.

The business of a soldier is to fight. It is unnatural that a man should want employment in his profession. Every able-bodied German for nearly two generations has been trained for war. Germany's young men have absorbed, therefore, the spirit of war. The nation has been an armed camp where the campers have talked and dreamed militarism. The German nation has been graduated from the university course of the barracks, where inevitably it has absorbed the philosophy of force, the ideals of conquest. Thus has developed the fatal militarist state of mind that is responsible for Europe's present predicament.

Such a state of mind, starting in the camps, soon becomes national. Civilians come to look at things from the military standpoint, to reverence a uniform, to swagger and talk big when there is question of international rivalry, to long for the false glories of conflict and welcome a pretext for hostilities.

The German of a century ago would not recognize the Germany of today. The ideal of scholarship, literature and art that dominated the age of Lessing, Goethe and Schiller and were the crowning glory of five hundred years of civilization, where are they now? We have seen scientists, staid college professors, philosophers falter for their intellectual calmness and their undeviating quest for truth flinging judgment to the winds and flailing up like any yunker in defense of militarism as a thing good and righteous in itself. Germany, they shout, is wholly right, and the rest of the world wholly wrong.

And given the same military training, what nation would not ringle the same weakness with its strength? Given Germany's land and thorough course of preparation, who can say that the United States would not at this moment be embroiled in some great war?

In our "wild west" days pioneers carried pistols for self defense, and shot each other because the weak ones were ready to their hands. When they all stopped carrying "guns," even hot fights ceased. That is the way with nations.

"But conquest is a good thing," some may argue, as Bernhardi and Treitschke have argued in Germany. Even if we grant that, great conquests are no longer possible.

Nobody can conquer the world, as Alexander did. The world is too big and strong. The Romans succeeded better with militarism than any other nation ever did. They maintained world-power for a hundred years with a standing army. But there can be no second Roman Empire. There are too many great nations now.

Napoleon tried to dominate Europe, and warring nations united to curb him. Now Germany is trying it. But it can't be done. Nobody could conquer Europe. Let

Russia or Britain or America try, and then there is the inevitable coalition to pull her down.

Germany, starting in self-defense and ending in aggression—unconscious, perhaps, but no less real—is fought to a standstill, and neutral nations wait, ready at need, to make her defeat certain.

Why? Because she is Germany? No—because the world will not tolerate militarism. They would do the same with us.

### NEW YORK'S BIRTHDAY

New York City is engaged these days in celebrating its three-hundredth anniversary. It's just three centuries since Adrian Block raised the first white man's habitation on Manhattan Island and, seeking timber in the virgin forest to build his new ship "Restless," cut the swath that is now lower Broadway.

Many tides have ebbed and flowed around Manhattan Island since that day, and yet it's a short time as a city's life runs. Most of the Old World cities have been growing—or decaying—far longer than that. In this new hemisphere we build cities at a rate undreamed of in Europe, and unmatched even in America until the last two generations. It took 200 years to bring New York's population up to 1,200,000. The next hundred swelled it to more than 5,000,000.

New Yorkers boast now that their city is the largest in the world, larger even than London. Maybe it is. It's all a question of suburbs. If New York isn't the most populous community existing anywhere on earth within the same area, it soon will be, though Chicago may catch up some day.

Transportation has done it—that, and the immigration net which has caught the world's human fish and keeps them. Until citizens found ways of getting about quickly, such civic behemoths were impossible. It is doubtful whether Rome, when the capital of the world, ever had more than 1,000,000 people. Steam and electricity make it possible to expand outward and upward.

We congratulate New York. And yet we feel more like extending our sympathy.

New York couldn't help growing; and its rapid, unhealthy growth has really been a detriment. The real estate owners have profited, but even their profits in innumerable cases have been eaten up by taxes and high prices. With enormous size comes poverty and crime and unemployed and inadequate facilities and bad government and all manner of evils. It would be much better for America if there were no New York—if instead of a few vast and unwieldy communities there were many cities of moderate size.

### SOUTH AMERICAN IDEALISM

Ambassador Neco of Argentina is spokesman for a peace doctrine that goes further than anything proposed by Andrew Carnegie or Secretary Bryan. Addressing the American Bar association recently, Senator Neco pointed out that his country "was the first to strive for the success of a formula establishing compulsory arbitration without limitations"; and he proved the sincerity of Argentina's professions by citing this bit of history:

At the close of the war with Paraguay, when victorious Argentina was in a position to impose her will on the defeated country and fix the boundary line between the two countries she refused absolutely to take advantage of her position, and submitted the matter to the decision of the President of the United States. It was on that occasion that Argentina coined the significant phrase, "Victory gives no rights."

The formula is so realistic that at first blush it sounds absurd. If victory gives no rights, what is the use of fighting?

But there is the very point. Argentina would abolish war by making armed conquest fruitless. Might, she declares, must no longer make right. Armies and navies prove nothing. It is impartial justice that shall determine international rights.

We hear nothing of this sort in Europe as yet. The belligerents are all for crushing the enemy and then exacting whatever penalties or concessions they choose. But by the time the bitter war is ended the discussions may have reached a higher moral plane.

When the nations finally arrive at a working agreement and organize a federation for the maintenance of peace, this formula is sure to gain weight and honor. Some day the world may see over the portal of the Peace Palace at The Hague the words, "Victory Gives No Rights," engraved in Spanish.

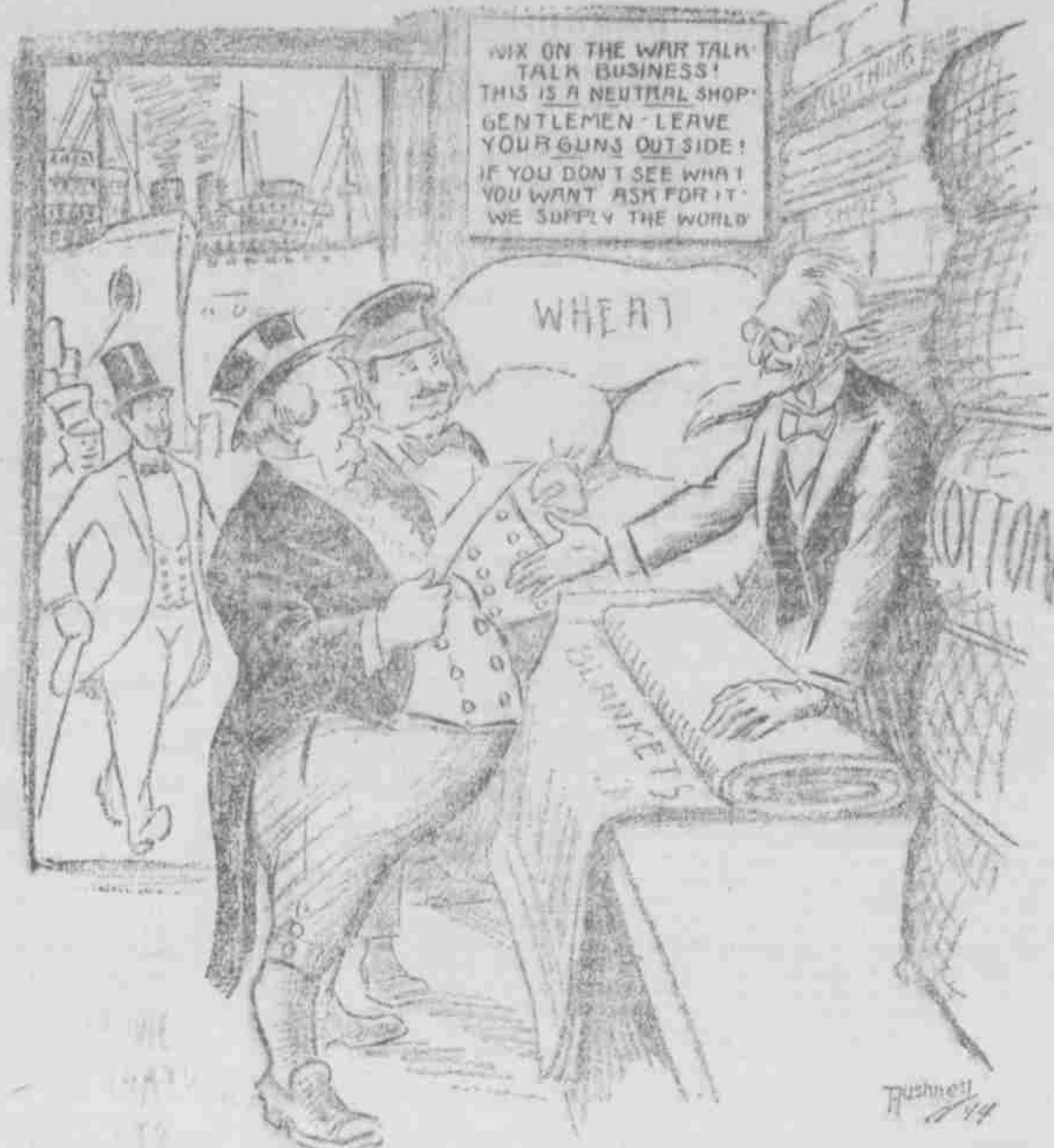
There may not be any significance in this particular sequence of events. But it's worth noting, just the same, that immediately after the German ambassador declared that the Monroe doctrine didn't protect Canada, we learned that there were 200,000 Americans trying to enlist in the Canadian army.

"Within a short time, perhaps very early in the new year, money is going to be such a drug on the market in this country that the banks will be willing to loan it at any price." So says a big New York banker. Cheer up! Everybody'll be going to borrow enough to pay his debts.

The magnates of the drama are complaining of "the worst theatrical season the country has ever known." But has anybody observed any serious depression in the "movie" houses? The people still spend money on shows, but they've learned to make a dollar cover ten shows instead of one.

Germany is not vindictive against the Belgians. Observing that her invasion has reduced them to starvation, she grants us permission to send them food.

### BUSINESS IS BOOMING!



### \* A BATCH OF SMILES \*

"No," said the captain," he read, "it was not a sloop, I as a larger vessel. By the rig I judged her to be a—"

The word was new to him. "Barque," supplied the teacher. Still Willie hesitated. "Barque!" repeated the teacher, this time sharply.

Willie looked as though he had not heard aright. Then, with an apprehensive glance around the class, he shouted: "How-sow!"

The following are specimens of the way in which certain journalists of a grimly humorous turn of mind announce the departure from life of one of their fellow-townsmen:

"A workman waded a pot of ale that he could ride the fly-wheel in a saw-mill where he worked, and as his widow paid the debt she remarked, 'William was always a kind husband, but he didn't know much about fly-wheels!'"

Here is another example: "A mechanic down South bet that he could handle a rattlesnake the same as a snake-charmer. The obstinacy of the undertaking in demanding his pay in advance delayed the funeral four days."

And yet another: "A woman gave her husband a teaspoonful of laudanum to cure his toothache. It cured him, but she has had to feed the pigs herself ever since."

"You understand your duties thoroughly, don't you?" she said to the new footman.

"Yes, ma'am; certainly, ma'am." "And you know your way to announce?"

"Well, ma'am, I shouldn't perhaps like to go quite so far as that, but I think I know my weight to a pound or so."

## The Wife's Money

"Of course \$300 a year is not much to support a wife and four children on these times," the minister was saying. "I realize that and it is good of my wife to try to help out by giving music lessons. What I complain of is her filling the house so full of people that have got to be fed. There is Julia the dark haired one. She does most of the work and cares for the baby. Yes, she is paid mostly with music lessons, but there are all her clothes and food."

Allice is not needed at all. The children could go to school like other Americans, but my wife insists on their being taught at home so they can have time to practice their music."

The slender, white-faced little man looked down at the horse's back at the flutter of brown leaves sifting down through the autumn stiffness. I suppose a man, who can't make enough to support his family has no right to expect to have his opinions considered. When we were first married and could live on a poor minister's salary, everything was different. Emily cared for me then. Now since she is teaching every day she makes me think of a schooner carrying millions. I am a little tug that must not get in and out of the harbor. I just get settled to do some studying when I hear, Victor, is the horse ready? I wouldn't mind so much if my name were anything else. If she'd only say what she thinks and call me defeat I could stand it better.

"Oh, yes, of course I know," she said, put in round figures, and showing funds already contributed: Belgian Relief: New York, \$250,000; Boston, \$40,000; Philadelphia, \$5,000; Atlanta, \$5,000; San Francisco, \$35,000; New Orleans, \$6,000; St. Louis, \$10,000; Portland, Ore., \$6,000; Youngstown, O., \$5,000. Red Cross: New York, \$325,000; Chicago, \$70,000; Kansas City, \$50,000; Lowell, Mass., \$6,000. Ambulance Hospital at Paris; New York, \$125,000; Providence, R. I., \$9,000. French Relief: New York, \$25,000. Elsewhere, \$25,000. Prince of Wales Fund, New York, \$70,000.

The reports of smaller funds from many cities and towns indicate a widespread interest in the Red Cross and Belgian relief measures, and nearly every hamlet throughout the country is sending its quota of cash and supplies.

The millions of the country have offered \$20,000 worth of flour, and the government employees of Washington are giving 1,000 pairs of shoes for the stricken Belgians.

Canada is also doing noble relief work, and the generosity of our neighbors is not confined to their brethren in England. The plight of the Belgians has aroused sympathy there, and a fund reaching \$500,000 has been raised, besides a huge collection of clothing.

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